

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My journey to get here has been long with many different stages and I am very grateful to the numerous people that have played a role in some way or other both in Madagascar and South Africa.

I would not be here if it had not been for the love, support and discipline that my parents gave me. Ho an'i Dada sy Neny: Misaotra be dia be tamin'ny fitiavanareo sy ny fikarakarana izay nataonareo, izay nahatonga ahy ho amin'izao toerana misy ahy izao. To Njato and Mino, I am grateful for having the best brother and sister in the world. Without your love, it would not all have been worthwhile. This is for you guys too. I would also like to thank my best friends namely Annick Ratefiarimino and Holy Rasoamanana, for our enjoyable years spent together as students at Ankatso. I will forever cherish the many special moments and memories that we shared, and I wish that all your dreams will come true.

To Mr. Roger Rambeloson (University of Antananarivo), I thank you for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to further my studies in South Africa. I would also like to thank the Department of Geology at the University of Antananarivo for their support. Special thanks to Daniel and Rado for being my field assistants, we have been through a lot in the field. The people of Dabolava and the numerous gold miners that welcomed us into the area, they will always be remembered.

I would be forever grateful to Prof. Lew Ashwal and Prof. Maarten de Wit for going out of their way to bring students to South Africa in order to give them opportunities in life, not available in Madagascar. Lew, there are not enough words to thank you for everything, you are a very special person and if people would only give a fraction of themselves, as you are generous, then the world would be a better place. I will always consider you as one the most important people in my life. Special thanks to Jochen Schweitzer for believing in me when others did not and for sticking his neck out to finance my studies through the CSIR.

Thanks go to the staff of the Department of Geology at RAU and to Prof. Lawrence Robb at Wits. Prof. Bob Tucker is especially thanked for allowing me to use his geochronology data within my thesis and Young Yao (Wits) for many hours of assistance in my fluid inclusion work. Mike Knoper, thank you for the many interesting conversations and unselfish help with many questions and queries that I may have had.

I would like to thank all my friends from Johannesburg, you know who you are, for keeping me sane on weekends. To Mom and Dad and my new family in South Africa, thank you for making me a part of your life and for all your love and support in the absence of my family in Madagascar.

Last but not least, to Mark, my wonderful husband for all his love and support. Thank you for holding my hand through the tough times and for always being there for me.

MISAOTRA BETSAKA.

